REMARKS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by AAPA. Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over AAPA in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,493,562, issued to Lo (hereinafter "Lo"). Based on the following, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response to the above rejection, it is respectfully submitted that the claims recite features neither taught nor suggested by AAPA alone or in combination with Lo. In particular, such features include "...storing an incoming packet in a memory for a subsequent retrieval; detecting error while receiving the packet from the physical layer; upon failure to detect the error, transmitting the received packet to the switch; and, upon detection of the error, stopping the transmission of the received packet to the switch and the storage of the incoming packet, as recited in Claim 1. Further, a similar feature is also recited in Claim 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification at page 7, lines 6-14, describes the operations steps in the event an error occurs, wherein the controller 20 stops transmitting the received packet to the switch engine interface 60 and prevents the received packet from being stored in the memory 50.

In contrast, AAPA discloses that the entire packet is transmitted along with an error signal if an error occurs in a packet exceeding 64 bytes; otherwise, the received packet is discarded (page 2, lines 15-19). As such, the receipt of the error packet causes an increase in the overhead.

3

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the presently recited "...<u>storing an incoming</u> <u>packet in a memory for a subsequent retrieval;</u> detecting error while receiving the packet from the physical layer; upon failure to detect the error, transmitting the received packet to the switch; and, upon detection of the error, <u>stopping the transmission of the received</u> <u>packet to the switch and the storage of the incoming packet</u>," is not anticipated by AAPA.

Claim 2 contains a similar feature as in Claim 1, thus urged patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the above-described distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of Claims 1-4 are not anticipated nor made obvious by AAPA alone or in combination with Lo. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to kindly telephone the undersigned telephone number listed below. If there are any fees due and owing, please charge Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Seung-Hwan Oh   Atty Docket. No.: 5000-1-060

Serial No.:   09/473,846   Group Art Unit: 2184

Filed: December 28, 1999   Examiner: Anne L Damiano

Title: METHOD FOR PROCESSING ERROR OF RECEIVED PACKET

IN ETHERNET MAC LAYER

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Technology Center 2100

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (amended) A method for processing a packet received from a physical layer by a

MAC (Medium Access Control) layer of an Ethernet to be transmitted to a switch, the

method comprising the steps of:

storing an incoming packet in a memory for a subsequent retrieval;

detecting error while receiving the packet from the physical layer;

upon failure to detect the error, transmitting the received packet to the switch; and,

upon detection of the error, stopping the transmission of the received packet to the

switch and the storage of the incoming packet.

2.　　(amended) A method for processing a packet received from a physical layer by a MAC layer of an Ethernet, wherein the received packet is stored in a memory for an eventual transmission to a switch, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet from the physical layer and storing the received packet in the memory;

detecting for error while receiving the packet;

upon detection of the error, stopping the storage of the received packet in the memory and the transmission of the received packet to the switch; and,

transmitting a first signal indicating an occurrence of the error and a second signal indicating an end of the received packet to the switch.